



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

21 APRIL 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Sacramento – Grocery Store Owner at Center of FBI Investigation with Ties to Cartel

(U) The FBI and other federal agencies worked with Sacramento authorities to expose an alleged drug trafficking operation involving La Victoria Supermercado, according to the US Department of Justice. Two of the men recently indicted on charges related to cocaine distribution are from the Sacramento area. One of them was identified as Jose Manuel Chavez Zepeda, 54. With the help of a confidential source, the FBI said Chavez and Denis Zacarias Ponce Castillo, 37, sold the confidential source half-a-kilogram of cocaine. Authorities said Chavez was about to use his supermarket business to launder money from the drug sales.

SOURCE: 20 April 2022, [ABC 10](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Seven Californians Among People Charged in \$150 Million COVID Aid Fraud

(U) Washington – The Justice Department announced the arrest of 21 people, including seven Californians, for alleged COVID-19 aid fraud totaling nearly \$150 million. Those charged in the investigation include medical business owners and executives, physicians, and marketers, as well as multiple alleged manufacturers of fake COVID-19 vaccination cards. The individuals were arrested in California, Florida, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Utah, and Washington. The Justice Department said it has reclaimed \$8 million so far.

SOURCE: 20 April 2022, [Los Angeles Times](#)

(U) Maine – Federal Building Security Officer Assaulted by Knife-Wielding Suspect

(U) Augusta – A man armed with a knife assaulted a security guard inside a federal building before being shot. The incident at the Edmund S. Muskie Federal Building occurred late yesterday morning. The suspect entered the building and allegedly assaulted a Federal Protective Service (FPS) guard. Another FPS guard shot the suspect, who was taken into custody and transported to a hospital. The FBI said there was no known threat to public safety and no one inside the building was hurt. The agency is leading the investigation into the incident with assistance from local and state law enforcement agencies.

SOURCE: 20 April 2022, [FOX News](#)

(U) New Jersey – DOJ Charges Man with Hate Crimes for Attacks Against Jewish Community

(U) Manchester – Authorities have charged a man with federal hate crimes in connection with a series of violent attacks against members of the Orthodox Jewish community. The Department of Justice said in a press release yesterday that authorities have charged Dion Marsh with multiple counts of violating the federal Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Specifically, he is charged with willfully causing bodily injury to four victims and attempting to kill and cause injuries with dangerous weapons to three of his victims due to their religion.

SOURCE: 20 April 2022, [The Hill](#)

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(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Nigeria – Explosion Hits Marketplace in Northeast Nigeria

(U) Abuja – An explosion targeting a marketplace in Nigeria's northeast killed six people, police and emergency response services reported yesterday. The attack occurred on Tuesday evening at a busy cattle market in the Ardo-Kola local government area of Taraba state where villages have been largely unaffected in the last year by the decade-long Islamic extremist violence in the northeast. Three people died immediately and by yesterday morning the death toll rose to six. More than 100 were hit by the explosion including 19 who are seriously wounded. No group has claimed responsibility for the violence. SOURCE: 20 April 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) United Kingdom – West Warns of Russian Cyberattacks on Critical Infrastructure

(U) London – Western governments jointly warned about a potential threat of increased malicious cyber activity by Russia against critical infrastructure as a response to sanctions imposed as punishment for its invasion of Ukraine. The cybersecurity agencies of the United States, Britain, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand - which together form the Five Eyes intelligence-sharing alliance - said the war could expose organizations everywhere to cyber-crime. The statement also warned of the potential for cybercrime groups which have pledged to support the Russian government to carry out digital extortion attacks against Western targets. SOURCE: 20 April 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

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